

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 21-23, and 25-34 are active in the present application.

The rejection of Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is obviated by amendment.

The claims have been amended to address the Examiner's specific criticisms relating to Claims 1 and 9. Specifically, Claim 1 has been amended to delete "secondary or" from the phrase "secondary or tertiary." Claim 1 has also been amended to clearly indicate that the previous term "homology" was intended to mean "sequence identity." Claim 9 has been amended to define that the polyoxyalkylpolyol group is covalently bonded to the protein.

In view of these amendments, Applicants submit that this ground of rejection is no longer tenable. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

The objection to the specification and the claims has been obviated by amendment. Applicants have amended the specification and claims to address the Examiner's specific criticisms. Withdrawal of this objection is requested.

Finally, Applicants note that consideration of reference AO (EP 0775 711) on the IDS filed on January 2, 2004, has not been acknowledged by the Examiner. Applicants request that the Examiner acknowledge consideration of EP 0775 711 by initialing and returning the **enclosed** Form PTO-1449 listing this reference. A copy of EP 0775 711 was filed in parent application U.S. 09/969,763, filed October 4, 2001. Applicants submit that no government fee is required for submission of the enclosed Form PTO-1449, since this is a duplicate

submission to rectify an Office error. Therefore, no fee is submitted herewith. In the event that the Office determines that a fee is required for submission of the enclosed Form PTO-1449, please charge any additional fee to deposit account number 15-0030.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance.  
Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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